

Field Checklist for Raccoon River BCA

* = confirmed or likely area breeder

Iowa Wildlife Action Plan **Migratory Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

Iowa Wildlife Action Plan **Nesting Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| __ Greater White-fronted Goose | __ Virginia Rail |
| __ Snow Goose | __ Sora |
| __ Ross's Goose | __ Common Gallinule |
| __ Cackling Goose | __ American Coot* |
| __ Trumpeter Swan* | |
| __ Wood Duck* | __ Sandhill Crane |
| __ Gadwall | |
| __ American Wigeon | __ Black-bellied Plover |
| __ Mallard* | __ American Golden Plover |
| __ Blue-winged Teal* | __ Semipalmated Plover |
| __ Northern Shoveler | __ Killdeer* |
| __ Northern Pintail | __ American Avocet |
| __ Green-winged Teal* | __ Spotted Sandpiper* |
| __ Canvasback | __ Solitary Sandpiper |
| __ Redhead | __ Greater Yellowlegs |
| __ Ring-necked Duck | __ Willet |
| __ Greater Scaup | __ Lesser Yellowlegs |
| __ Lesser Scaup | __ Upland Sandpiper* |
| __ Bufflehead | __ Hudsonian Godwit |
| __ Hooded Merganser* | __ Marbled Godwit |
| __ Common Merganser | __ Semipalmated Sandpiper |
| __ Red-breasted Merganser | __ Least Sandpiper |
| __ Ruddy Duck | __ White-rumped Sandpiper |
| | __ Baird's Sandpiper |
| __ Northern Bobwhite* | __ Pectoral Sandpiper |
| __ Gray Partridge* | __ Dunlin |
| __ Ring-necked Pheasant* | __ Stilt Sandpiper |
| __ Wild Turkey* | __ Short-billed Dowitcher |
| | __ Long-billed Dowitcher |
| __ Pied-billed Grebe* | __ Wilson's Snipe |
| __ Horned Grebe | __ American Woodcock* |
| __ Eared Grebe | __ Wilson's Phalarope |
| | |
| __ Double-crested Cormorant | __ Bonaparte's Gull |
| __ American White Pelican | __ Franklin's Gull |
| | __ Ring-billed Gull |
| __ American Bittern | __ Herring Gull |
| __ Least Bittern | __ Caspian Tern |
| __ Great Blue Heron* | __ Black Tern |
| __ Great Egret | __ Forster's Tern |
| __ Cattle Egret | |
| __ Green Heron* | __ Rock Pigeon* |
| __ Black-crowned Night-Heron | __ Eurasian Collared Dove* |
| | __ Mourning Dove* |
| __ Turkey Vulture* | |
| | |
| __ Osprey | __ Yellow-billed Cuckoo* |
| __ Bald Eagle* | __ Black-billed Cuckoo* |
| __ Northern Harrier* | |
| __ Sharp-shinned Hawk | __ Barn Owl* |
| __ Cooper's Hawk* | __ Eastern Screech-Owl* |
| __ Northern Goshawk | __ Great Horned Owl* |
| __ Red-shouldered Hawk* | __ Snowy Owl |
| __ Broad-winged Hawk* | __ Barred Owl* |
| __ Swainson's Hawk | __ Long-eared Owl |
| __ Red-tailed Hawk* | __ Short-eared Owl |
| __ Rough-legged Hawk | __ Northern Saw-Whet Owl |
| | __ Common Nighthawk* |
| | __ Eastern Whip-poor-will* |

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| __ Chimney Swift* | __ Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| __ Ruby-throated Hummingbird* | __ Eastern Bluebird* |
| | __ Veery* |
| __ Belted Kingfisher* | __ Gray-cheeked Thrush |
| | __ Swainson's Thrush |
| __ Red-headed Woodpecker* | __ Hermit Thrush |
| __ Red-bellied Woodpecker* | __ Wood Thrush* |
| __ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | __ American Robin* |
| __ Downy Woodpecker* | |
| __ Hairy Woodpecker* | __ Gray Catbird* |
| __ Northern Flicker* | __ Northern Mockingbird* |
| __ Pileated Woodpecker* | __ Brown Thrasher* |
| __ American Kestrel* | |
| __ Merlin | __ European Starling* |
| __ Peregrine Falcon | __ American Pipit |
| | __ Cedar Waxwing* |
| __ Olive-sided Flycatcher | |
| __ Eastern Wood-Pewee* | __ Lapland Longspur |
| __ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | __ Snow Bunting |
| __ Acadian Flycatcher* | |
| __ Alder Flycatcher | __ Ovenbird* |
| __ Willow Flycatcher* | __ Louisiana Waterthrush* |
| __ Least Flycatcher* | __ Northern Waterthrush |
| __ Eastern Phoebe* | __ Golden-winged Warbler |
| __ Vermilion Flycatcher | __ Blue-winged Warbler |
| __ Great Crested Flycatcher* | __ Black-and-white Warbler |
| __ Western Kingbird | __ Prothonotary Warbler |
| __ Eastern Kingbird* | __ Tennessee Warbler |
| | __ Orange-crowned Warbler |
| __ Loggerhead Shrike* | __ Nashville Warbler |
| __ Northern Shrike | __ Mourning Warbler |
| | __ Kentucky Warbler |
| __ Bell's Vireo* | __ Common Yellowthroat* |
| __ Yellow-throated Vireo* | __ American Redstart* |
| __ Blue-headed Vireo | __ Cape May Warbler |
| __ Warbling Vireo* | __ Cerulean Warbler |
| __ Philadelphia Vireo | __ Northern Parula* |
| __ Red-eyed Vireo* | __ Magnolia Warbler |
| | __ Bay-breasted Warbler |
| __ Blue Jay* | __ Blackburnian Warbler |
| __ American Crow* | __ Yellow Warbler* |
| | __ Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| __ Horned Lark* | __ Blackpoll Warbler |
| | __ Palm Warbler |
| __ Purple Martin* | __ Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| __ Tree Swallow* | __ Yellow-throated Warbler* |
| __ Northern Rough-winged Swallow* | __ Black-throated Green Warbler |
| __ Bank Swallow* | __ Canada Warbler |
| __ Cliff Swallow* | __ Wilson's Warbler |
| __ Barn Swallow* | __ Yellow-breasted Chat |
| | |
| __ Black-capped Chickadee* | __ Spotted Towhee |
| __ Tufted Titmouse* | __ Eastern Towhee* |
| __ Red-breasted Nuthatch* | __ American Tree Sparrow |
| __ White-breasted Nuthatch* | __ Chipping Sparrow* |
| __ Brown Creeper | __ Clay Colored Sparrow* |
| | __ Field Sparrow* |
| __ Carolina Wren* | __ Vesper Sparrow* |
| __ House Wren* | __ Lark Sparrow* |
| __ Winter Wren | __ Savannah Sparrow* |
| __ Sedge Wren* | __ Grasshopper Sparrow* |
| __ Marsh Wren* | __ Henslow's Sparrow |
| __ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* | __ Le Conte's Sparrow |
| | |
| __ Golden-crowned Kinglet | |

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| __ Nelson's Sparrow | __ Eastern Meadowlark* |
| __ Fox Sparrow | __ Western Meadowlark* |
| __ Song Sparrow* | __ Yellow-headed Blackbird* |
| __ Swamp Sparrow* | __ Rusty Blackbird |
| __ White-throated Sparrow | __ Brewer's Blackbird |
| __ Harris's Sparrow | __ Common Grackle* |
| __ White-crowned Sparrow | __ Great-tailed Grackle |
| __ Dark-eyed Junco | __ Brown-headed Cowbird* |
| | __ Orchard Oriole* |
| __ Summer Tanager* | __ Baltimore Oriole* |
| __ Scarlet Tanager* | |
| __ Northern Cardinal* | __ Purple Finch |
| __ Rose-breasted Grosbeak* | __ House Finch* |
| __ Blue Grosbeak* | __ Common Redpoll |
| __ Indigo Bunting* | __ Pine Siskin |
| __ Dickcissel* | __ American Goldfinch* |
| | |
| __ Bobolink* | __ House Sparrow* |
| __ Red-winged Blackbird* | |



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Raccoon River Savanna

Bird Conservation Area



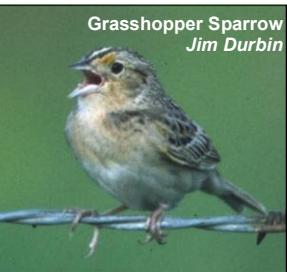
Carroll and Guthrie Counties



The Raccoon River Savanna Bird Conservation Area (BCA), dedicated in 2006, was the tenth to be created in the state of Iowa. Totaling 54,361 acres, this large land tract encompasses three core areas in which conservation measures can be targeted: Whiterock Conservancy, Springbrook State Park, and Elk Grove Wildlife Area. This the first Iowa BCA to focus on savanna, often likened to a transition zone between prairie and forest that is crucial for many of Iowa's birds. As many as one-third of the state's 200 breeding birds can be found nesting in this increasingly rare habitat. Comprised of both public and private land, this mosaic landscape provides refuge to many grassland, savanna, and woodland birds. At least 29 of Iowa's 67 Greatest Conservation Need (GCN) breeding bird species were recently documented on Whiterock Conservancy land.



Northern Bobwhite
©2008 Jenni Dyar



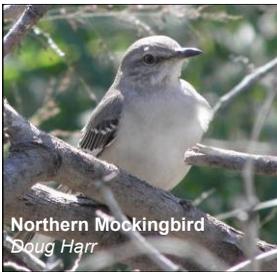
Grasshopper Sparrow
Jim Durbin

Within the last two decades, alarming declines in a large number of species of North American birds have led to

BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

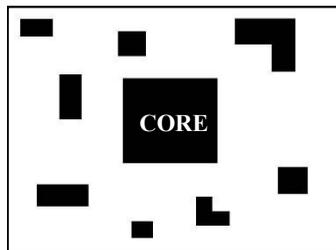
the emergence of national and international programs dedicated to the conservation of game and non-game birds. Since 1999, bird conservation organizations and enthusiasts have worked together under an umbrella called the North American Bird Conservation Initiative to “conserve all birds in all habitats.” As part of this initiative and in an effort to protect dwindling populations of many Iowa birds, the **Bird Conservation Area (BCA)** program was established by the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau in 2001. The present model BCA encompasses at least 10,000 acres of public and/or private lands with approximately 25 percent of the area established as key bird habitat. This concept is backed by research that suggests viable bird populations require conservation efforts at a landscape-oriented level. Each BCA also includes a large “core” area of protected high-quality habitat. Surrounding this core are private lands, plus additional public tracts, all managed to provide good bird habitat.

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Northern Mockingbird
Doug Harr

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. Designated IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/ or migrating birds. By working to identify and implement conservation strategies, the IBA Program hopes to minimize the effects of habitat degradation and loss of birds and other wildlife.



A BCA Model: Shaded areas depict public habitat protected for

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

The Raccoon River Savanna is so named because it contains valuable savanna habitat. This unique landscape is characterized by sprawling oaks interspersed with healthy grasslands and gives modern visitors an idea of what much of Iowa looked like before European settlement. Several species of plants and animals rely on savanna, and many are rarely found outside of this type of habitat.



RACCOON RIVER DIVERSITY

Because the Raccoon River Savanna boasts a mixture of grasslands, woodlands, and savanna, a variety of species can be found on even a short excursion. One may encounter Indian Grass, Prairie Blazing Star, Purple Prairie Clover, or Butterfly Milkweed in the prairies. Species such as Little Bluestem, Pennsylvania Sedge, Side-oats Grama, Virginia Wild Rye, and Bur Oak typify the savanna habitat. Oak and hickory species dominate the woodlands, and Solomon's Seal, Bloodroot, Virginia Waterleaf, Columbine, and Jack-in-the-pulpit blanket the understory in the spring.

PLANTS

Several species of plants and animals rely on savanna, and many are rarely found outside of this type of habitat.



Prairie Blazing Star
Bruce Ehresman



Butterfly Milkweed
Bruce Ehresman

ANIMALS

Numerous bird species use this BCA for nesting or wintering habitat, and many more stop here during their migrations. A Vermillion Flycatcher was documented in 2005 on Whiterock Conservancy land, and Ospreys were reintroduced starting in 2006 by the nonprofit organization Saving Our Avian Resources. While the Vermillion Flycatcher is a rarity north of Texas, Ospreys can still be seen within the BCA.

The Raccoon River Savanna is vital for many non-avian species as well. Look for the Edwards' Hairstreak



Edwards' Hairstreak

butterfly, an Iowa Species of Greatest Conservation Need, throughout the open oak savannas. The Gorgone Checkerspot butterfly flutters among the asters and sunflowers in mesic prairies, as does the Plains Clubtail dragonfly. The Northern Prairie Skink finds cover in this region's rocky kames. Wet savanna provides habitat for Cope's Gray Tree Frog and Northern Leopard Frog. Keep an eye on the ground for a scurrying Meadow Vole, and listen for the chatter of both Fox and Gray Squirrels throughout the wooded portions of this BCA.

Partners in creating the Raccoon River Savanna BCA include Whiterock Conservancy, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Saving Our Avian Resources, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Audubon, and Carroll and Guthrie County Conservation Boards.

Northern Prairie Skink
Photo by Jeff LeClerc www.HerpNet.net



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